Carranzistas in Force Fought American Troops at Parral

Advices From Gen. Pershing's Headquarters Contain Unmistakable Evidence De Facto Government Garrison Made Repeated Attacks After Its Commander Had Conferred With Maj. Tompkins.

PERSHING'S CAMP AT FRONT, April 15, via aerolane to Columbus, N. M., April 21.—The fight at Parral, where, according to indisputable evidence reaching here today, Carranza troops in force attacked the cavalry command of Maj. Frank Tompkins, has changed the entire aspect of the Villa chase so far as military plans are concerned. This attack upon an American force which went in perfect good faith into Parral in the most friendly fashion, blocked in the mouth; Corp. Walter E. Willing-what seemed to be an excellent opportunity for either the capture ham, Troop M, 13th Cavalry, shot in of Villa or the dispersal of one of his strongest bands.

Heretofore the American troops have reckoned on meeting opposition from brigands, but resistance from regular armed troops of the Mexican army put the American military leaders immediately under the necessity of preparing for serious difficulties. Whether these preparations will have to be completed depends upon the future course of the Carranza faction. It can be stated that within a few hours after the Parral fight the new disposition of American troops was partly completed and within two days its most important features had been entirely carried out.

On April 12, about noon, Maj. Frank Tompkins of the 13th Cavalry, who chased the Villa band across the international line at Columbus, went into Parral with only a small portion of his force, which totaled about 150 men, including a pack train outfit. Heretofore the American troops have reckoned on meeting

force, which totaled about 150 men, including a pack train outfit. He had Troops M and K of the 13th.

Sent Word by Messenger.

they knew about firing on his pack train. Gen. Lozano and the presidente hurried back toward the town to stop the shorting. night before to send word by the shooting.

The Americans were in a column formed for defense when this firing a messenger to the presidente of Parral. A messenger to the presidente of Parlat.

Luis Herrera, that he would call upon him next day to arrange for buying provisions and to have the Parral military officials designate some camping place for the Americans outside of Parkins.

formed for defense when this firing hegan, a formation which Maj. Tomphisms had ordered, as he heard the shooting against his pack train, which had been five or six hundred yards to the rear. Both of the soldiers killed in the action were near Maj. Tompkins. tary officials designate some camping place for the Americans outside of Parral in accordance with the agreement by which the American troops are not to occupy Mexican cities. Maj. Tompkins left most of his men outside of Parral, but took his advance guard into the city during his call. The presence of this guard was both a military precaution considered necessary in a country credited with being strongly Villainclined in sentiment and also was the usual formal escort accompanying commanding officers, when, according to Mexican custom, they pay official visits.

The presidente said he had not received the message which Maj. Tompkins and the men of his command to covered one column of these uniformed men moving out to cut off the road to the east and to the north, where he would have to retreat to escape from the pocket at the camp site. He shouted to these men to get away from the road. When they did not heed his warning the American commander wheeled on his horse and ordered his men to reply to the fire.

Sergt. Jay Ridgeley of Troop M, 13th Cavalry, was the first American to fall as he rode, firing, near Maj. Tompkins The sergeant's body lay all day where ti fell in the road, as his comrades were too hard pressed to pick it up.

A bullet struck Maj. Tompkins in the left breast. The wound was slight, necoving to military standards, and the major continued fighting all afternoon and until yesterday, when reinforcements under one of his superior officers.

Carranza general commanding in Par-ral, Gen. Lozano, was pleasant. Prom-ises were made to sell the Americans food, and to show them a good camping site. Immediately the Americans started out of the city, accompanied by Herrera and Lozano, who were riding with Maj. Tompkins.

Attacked While Leaving Town.

When the Americans were out of the town, the pack train at their rear, Maj. Tompkins heard firing. 'Looking back, he saw that some one in the shooting; that his troops were unable town was shooting at the pack train. to control them, and asking the Ameriand "Viva Mexico" and curses against movement continued for five hours and

Tompkins turned to the Car-leaders and asked them what affording good cover for pursuers. Dur-

ing all this time the American ti ops repeatedly caught sight of men in Carranza uniforms shooting at them, but saw few, if any, civilians.

After moving out from the trap of hills, where the fight began, Maj. Tompkins formed a line of dismounted men, well spread out, across the road and on adjoining eminences, who retarded the attackers until the pack animals and stores had time to get back toward the American rear.

Repeatedly during the afternoon this defense line continued to form, to fire from the cover of rocks, plowed ground and ditches, and then fell back to its horses for further retreat. The Americans had no machine guns, only their pistols and rifles, and every man was instructed to save his cartridges until he could make them count. During one of these defensive stands Private Herbert Ledford, Troop M. 13th Cavalry, was shot in the hand. He continued to fight, Late in the afternoon, his hand swollen and almost usecontinued to fight. Late in the after-noon, his hand swollen and almost use-less, but still fighting, he was shot dead off his horse, a bullet passing through his chest. His body lay in the road, but at all times under cover of such an effective American fire that it was not molested.

Other Americans Wounded. the calf of the left leg; Corp. Richard Tamous, Troop K, 13th Cavalry, shot cer

some heavy mid walls, a foot or more thick, maker or effective defensive positions. The Mexicans did not press from the interest of the first in this villace, but continued first in the Mexican lines about the first in the Mexican lines are procached the American found of the Pershing and first from Gen. Lozano, who was at In the Mexican lines a short word from Gen. Lozano, who was at the time in the Mexican lines a short distance from the Americans. Lozano's hore suggested that he washed from such that wall the first interest in the first interest as the foot suggested that he washed from such that wall. Tompkins word from Gen. Lozano that Maj. Tompkins with was at the Mexican from the Mexican from the military recall for cavalry obtained in the failure of these three iron fingers to close about Villa three. They missed him by barely twenty-four hours.

Next, pursuing columns were sent sentent from Gen. Lozano that Maj. Tompkins with large and the failure of the east.

Withdraw and threatened to attack him if he refused. Col. Brown, who arrived at this time with 350 men of the 16th Cavalry and took commandant replied that he would not retreat a step from Santa Cruz unless ordered to do so by his commanding officers. To this Gen. Lozano made no reply.

Many Former Villa Soldiers.

The fourth phase then developed the bow," a straight line southward toward toward burango. The wash of the mountains to eatch him personal three days ahead of the American staff proved corner of the bow, and the staff of the cavalry obtained the columns of the personal columns.

Next, pursuing columns were sent sent through mountains to eatch him if he failure of these three iron find of the Parral situation of the Parral situation of the Parral situation of the Parral situation should be commanded to the cavalry and took commanding officers.

To this Gen. Lozano made no reply.

Many Forme st pack sidents to stop column firing Tompkins.

In the Mexican lines bugles were blowing the military recall for cavalrymen. The truce messenger brought word from Gen. Lozano, who was at that time in the Mexican lines a short distance from the Americans. Lozano's note suggested that he was unable to control his men. Tompkins replied immediately, and quickly there came another flag of truce from Lozano, who still was at the Mexican front. This second messenger brought a demand

gone into Parral unannounced. Col.
Brown replied by pointing out that the
Americans had gone in on what seemed
a most reliable invitation from Carranza officers and had certainly sent the
message to announce their coming. message to announce their coming.

The president repeated that Parral civilians outnumbered the soldiers, so that the people could not be controlled. So far as the actual fighting was concerned, the Americans assert they obtained positive evidence that the Carranza troops were not outnumbered by civilians and that few civilians participated.

The body of Sergt. Ridgeley was sent into the American camp. It apparently had not been molested.

Strategy of the Villa Chase.

The entire strategy of the Villa chase up to its blockade by Carranza forces at Parral is as follows:

First was the organization of a secret

Villa sympathizers.

The direct effect of the Carranza attack on the Americans was to interrupt the fast pursuit of Villa, which the American columns were making with a kandful of men. While they were unable to verify the stories that Villa, wounded and on a stretcher, was being carried by his men southward past Farral, they know that an important unit of his forces was fleeing southward toward Durango and they were daily nearing this force of bandits.

In order to proceed past Parral the Americans were forced to buy provisions for men and horses at that town. It was this necessity which led Maj. Tompkins to open negotiations with the Parral civil and military officials.

The concentration of American commands was so rapid after the Parral tight that at present there is no worry for their safety among officers here.

The day after the fight President Herhad been a fight. He said that he thought the Americans should not have gone into Parral unannounced. Col. Brown replied by pointing out that the Americans hould not have gone into Parral unannounced. Col. Brown replied by pointing out that the Americans had gone in on what seemed

fastness.

Fifteen hundred men comprised these flying columns when they started from Casas Grandes. A little more than half of them remained at the front the day of the Parral battle. The others had been dropped through the necessities for food, the deaths of horses and their own semi-nakedness, due to the rigors of day and night riding and occasional fighting among jagged mountain rocks, wildernesses of thorns and the bitter snow and cold of the Guerrero region.

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most of his command was credited with being former Villa soldiers. The city of l'arral was known as a hotbed of Villa sympathizers.

The direct effect of the Carranza attack on the Americans was to interrupt the fast pursuit of Villa, which the American columns were making the American columns at a tarted southeast-way to the border during the halt in operations, to prepare for History building of the American University, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, at 3:40 o'clock. The subject of War." emainder and the enlisted men of the quadron are expected to arrive by motor in time to receive the first four planes, expected tomorrow. The first detachment of the 2,390 troops ordered to Columbus to be held subject to Gen. Pershing's orders arrived from El Paso during the night. It is expected the re-mainder will-arrive today and tomor-row.

row.

Reports reaching here indicated that military operations in Mexico continued at a standstill today. Gen. Pershing was reported to be in Namiquipa, where he had gone from his new base that he might be closely in touch with the

WEDDED IN QUICK TIME.

Pennsylvania Couples Married by Chaplain of the Senate.

rear.

The long-anticipated break from Carranza forces came at Parral on April 12. Within a few hours after that fight four of the American columns, following the general plan, had joined Tompkins near Santa Cruz, about fifteen miles north of Parral, making a body of troops strong enough for any emergency. Dodd, with the strongest individual column, temained in the west guarding the fastness. the purchase of the licenses and the completion of the weddings.

The couples were Chester Eisentrager, twenty-six years old, of Philadelphia, who married Bessie Y. Tagle, twentynine years old, of Pottstown, Pa., and Harry Joseph Conwell, thirty-three years old, also of Philadelphia, who was married to Anna Ruth McGinnes, twenty-six years old, of Spring City,

Prof. Ion to Lecture Twice.

Telephone Numbers

Don't rely on your memory for telephone numbers Look in the telephone directory. That's what it is for.

When you call the wrong number and get what you call for, don't say: "The operator gave me the wrong number." Say: "I called your number by mistake."

Don't, in any case, blame the party who has been called in error. He has merely answered the summons to the telephone.

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These men found a chrome nickel steel frame in the Riker Truck, instead of structural steel as used in the frames of most trucks. Chrome nickel steel costs about 20 cents a poundstructural steel 8 cents a pound.

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OU can tell Spring lamb from old mutton when you put it in your mouth, but can you tell kid from sheepskin when you put it on your foot?

major continued fighting all atternoon and until yesterday, when reinforce-ments under one of his superior officers arrived to relieve him. Lieut, J. B. Ord, of the 6th Infantry, who accompanied the cavairy expedi-

ion, was shot in the left ear, a slight

Unable to Control Carranzistas.

As the fight began Maj. Tompkins

This year, with leather, trimmings and findings sky-high, the all-important question in buying your Easter Shoes is not, which may be simply a matter of foxy fault-glossing and cunning window-posing, but "Who Made Them?", which challenges the sober test of

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